Request for Proposals
for the
Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program

Issued by:
Kentucky Division for Air Quality
October 27, 2008

Project Proposal Deadline:
December 19, 2008

Send completed proposals to:

Kentucky Division for Air Quality
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Frankfort, KY 40601

Or by email to:
Shea.Hogan@ky.gov

The Kentucky Division for Air Quality (DAQ) announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals for projects to purchase and install emission control (retrofit) devices and idle reduction technologies on diesel school buses in the state of Kentucky. A total of $196,880 is available in the first year of this program. This competitive funding opportunity is open to all public school districts located in the state of Kentucky.

Background

It is the mission of the Kentucky DAQ to protect human health and the environment by achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality. This grant program will adhere to DAQ's mission by helping to reduce the public's direct exposure to toxic diesel emissions as well as assist in the effort to attain the federal ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM).

Diesel engines are one of the largest sources of PM in the United States, and they additionally emit ozone-forming nitrogen oxides and toxic air pollutants. Diesel exhaust ranks among the air pollutants that EPA believes pose the greatest public health risks, as exposure to fine particles and ozone causes lung damage and aggravates existing respiratory diseases such as asthma. Children, with their growing lungs, faster respiratory rates, and close proximity to diesel school buses, are especially susceptible to the health effects of diesel exhaust.

Projects funded through this grant program will assist in achieving emission reductions in the state's school bus fleet and will thereby reduce the health risks to school children as a result of exposure to harmful diesel emissions.

Funding

This funding was made possible through a grant from the U.S. EPA's State Clean Diesel Grant Program. The State Clean Diesel Grant Program was established through the National Clean Diesel Campaign under the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 in order to assist entities across the country in building diesel emission reduction programs that improve air quality and protect public health. The Kentucky DAQ applied for funds through this program and has been awarded $196,880 to create the Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program.

For selected projects, DAQ will fund up to 100% of the total approved project costs, although school districts that chose to provide a match will score additional points in the selection process. In-kind contributions such as administrative costs, in-house labor used to install retrofit equipment, and PR/outreach costs may be counted towards this recipient match.

Funds will be paid to the grant recipients on a reimbursement basis by DAQ after the retrofit or purchase has been completed. Itemized invoices will be required for all payment requests.

Who is eligible to apply for project funding?

Kentucky public school districts that own and/or operate school buses are eligible to apply for funding through this grant program.

What is eligible for funding?

- *Verified Retrofit Technologies*

  Per EPAct of 2005, Kentucky DAQ may fund a project that utilizes verified or certified technologies through EPA's verification or certification programs or through the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) verification or certification programs. A list of EPA verified technologies is available at http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/. CARB-verified technologies may be found at http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/verdev/verdev.htm.

  Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) are low maintenance, cost effective retrofit devices that are endorsed by the Kentucky Department of Education. For this reason, DAQ is strongly encouraging applicants to consider utilizing DOCs over other retrofit technologies.

- *Verified Idle Reduction Devices*

  Projects may also utilize verified idle reduction technologies that reduce unnecessary long-duration idling. In order to be in compliance with the Kentucky Department of Education, however, idle reduction devices such as engine block heaters may only be used if they are factory-installed on new school buses at the time of purchase by the school district.

- *Filter Cleaning Devices*

  DAQ will additionally consider funding the purchase of filter cleaning devices, such as a DPF Pulse Cleaner or Thermal Regenerator, for school districts that currently utilize DPFs.

Project selection criteria

The following criteria will be considered in selecting projects for funding:

- Location of the applicant. School districts located in areas of the state not meeting federal annual particulate matter standards, or those areas that may be at risk of not meeting the federal 24-hour particulate matter standard, will be granted priority over those located in attainment areas. [35 points]

- Proposals that achieve the most cost effective emission reduction strategies (cost per ton of emissions reduced per dollar of grant funds invested). [20 points]

- Applicants that choose to provide a match. [20 points]
- Applicants that commit to adopting policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary idling of school buses in their school districts. [15 points]
- Applicants that demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability, such as those who chose to participate in the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools Program. [10 points]

Project selection process

A project selection review team comprised of DAQ staff will review and rank eligible proposals based on the criteria described above. DAQ will then work with selected applicants to establish a 2-year work plan to see the funded project through to completion.

Project timeline

October 27, 2008	Release of RFP
December 19, 2008	Deadline for submittal of proposals
February 1, 2009	Grant selections made by DAQ and chosen applicants notified
March 31, 2009	Final work plan submission deadline for chosen applicants
July 1, 2009	Project period begins for approved and funded projects
June 30, 2011	Deadline for project completion and final report from grantees

Proposal format

Proposals must contain:

- Cover letter.
- Short narrative (2-4 pages) outlining and summarizing the details of the proposed project. Please include the number of vehicles to be retrofitted, estimated emission reductions, cost effectiveness of these reductions, and how this project will adhere to the program goals and selection criteria described above. Emission reductions and cost effectiveness can be estimated using the U.S. EPA's Diesel Emissions Quantifier tool located at http://cfpub.epa.gov/quantifier/view/index.cfm. In addition, please detail what PR and outreach efforts will be made to promote the proposed program within the school district.
- Completed Grant Application Spreadsheet for all vehicles included in the proposal. An electronic copy of this spreadsheet can be found at www.air.ky.gov or upon request (email to shea.hogan@ky.gov).